Snow globe project

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When deciding on the activity project to do for my independent project I wanted to incorporate a hobby and my love of science and nature. Therefore, I decided to make snow globes out of baby food jars. This activity includes arts and crafts and covers the importance of recycling, reusing, and reducing waste materials. It is important to teach students how critical recycling is in protecting the environment. It is also important to teach students different and creative ways a product can be reused. There are many different types of crafts that can be made from products that are normally thrown in the trash. Making snow globes out of baby food jars is just one example or reusing products.

Recycling is the process in which materials are collected, sorted, and manufactured into new products. It takes less energy to make products from recycled materials than from raw materials. One of the main reasons to recycle is reduce the impact of trash on the environment. Annually 100 tons of trash is dumped into landfills. A large percentage of the trash found in landfills is non-biodegradable. The chemicals that are dumped in landfills plus the chemicals from the garbage breaking down creates a toxic substance called leachate. Leachate can run off from landfills and contaminate groundwater. Landfills also take up a lot of open space and destroy natural habitats for animals and plants. Therefore to help prevent the accumulation of harmful trash in landfills it is important that local communities have recycling programs (Discovery Channel, 2011).

Since the snow globes are made from baby food jars, I researched some interesting facts about glass. Glass recycling has increased to more than three million tons in 2010. Glass is one material that can be recycled over and over again. Recycled crushed glass is called cullet. Many manufacturers used cullet instead of raw materials because it costs less than the raw material and it takes less energy due to a lower melting point. Not only is recycled glass used to make new glass it is also used in making items like kitchen countertops, tiles, and even in insulation. There are many uses for recycled glass therefore, instead of throwing glass in the trash put in a recyclable bin (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2011).

The purpose of the snow globe project is to demonstrate the importance of recycling materials to improve the environment. It is a hands on project that can incorporate technology in the use of video clips and other forms of media. Therefore, not only students are using their hands to make the snow globes they are also being visually stimulated which will increase learning and will help stress the importance of recycling.

References

Discovery Channel. (2011). How stuff works: How recycling works. Retrieved from <http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/recycling2.htm>

U.S Environmental Protection Agency. (2011). Glass. Retrieved from <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/materials/glass.htm>